



Discovering our history, Preserving our past, Sharing our stories.

Museum Now Open One Day/Week

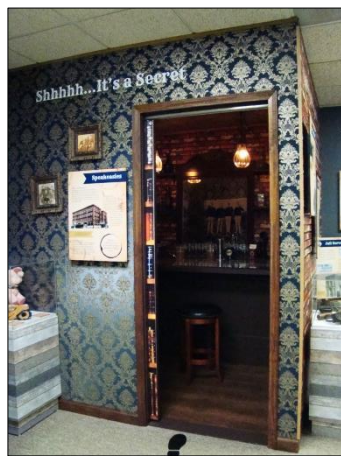
With new cleaning procedures in place at the Museum and new space rearrangements, the staff and Board have "tip-toed" in to re-opening to the public.

Open hours are now FRIDAYS, 10 am to 4 pm,
(or by appointment).

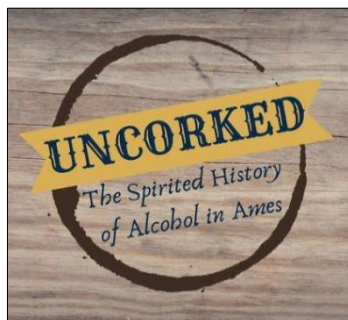
Masks are required and the rearrangements mean that there is space to move and maintain the 6-foot recommended distancing.



The exhibit, **Uncorked: the Spirited History of Alcohol in Ames** has been extended and visitors can enjoy reading information panels, peeking into a 'secret' door (below), playing videos and perhaps recognizing artifacts from favorite hangouts!



With the reopening, the Museum Monday email that has been going out to our mailing list will go from weekly to twice a month. The Covid 19 tab that is on our website will continue with its many digital resources.



Marking Our 40th Anniversary

Under more normal circumstances, there would have been a festive party on **November 13** to celebrate reaching our organization's 40-year mark! Even though the pandemic prevents us from gathering with members and friends, we'd like to note that anniversary at least here in our newsletter.

The organization has evolved through three names, all the while retaining the same basic mission of preserving and sharing local history stories:

- Ames Heritage Association
- Ames Historical Society
- Ames History Museum



When Ames historian, Farwell T. Brown, discovered Ames' first school house enclosed in a soon-to-be demolished building, he was inspired to try to save and restore it. But it was a project that he could not do alone. That was the inspiration for establishing an organization that could help him accomplish his goal – and provide for the larger mission of preserving local history. Pictured above are the first officers of the group: (left to right) Rodney Fox, secretary, Terry Adams, vice-president and Farwell Brown, president, making plans for the new Association's first project, the restoration of Hoggatt School.

And here we are – 40 years later!

Museum News – Annual Benefit Report & Awards

‘Feeling Groovy’ Benefit a Success

Our week-long, online benefit with the 1960s theme, **Feeling Groovy**, netted \$9,601 - our second-highest ever! Members and interested others were invited to “opt in” and then received daily, entertaining emails throughout the week of August 17-20.

Total participation via emails, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and our webpage was 15,672. The most favored posts on all platforms were the 1960s “Then and Now” photographs of local businesses that brought back memories for many benefit participants.

We **sincerely thank** all those who joined us and who donated, placed bids during the auction and contributed to the “Fund the Need” campaign. We also **gratefully** thank our generous sponsors:

Gold Level



Silver Level

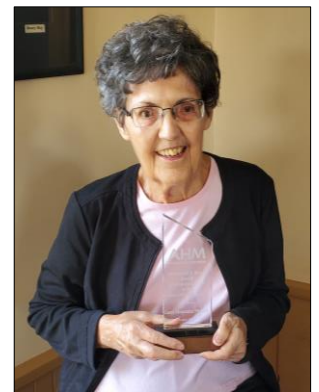
BETH AND CRAIG MARRS



needed repairs to the ceiling, installation of new stairs and the addition of a ramp – and hosted a Fall Festival with a boxed lunch, songs, recitations, a spelling bee, schoolyard games and other 1860s activities.

During her tenure on the board, Carole also served as the volunteer coordinator for the first “demonstration” museum we instituted at 417 Douglas.

Carole’s (left) Board service ended in 2006, but she continued on the Hoggatt Committee when Carol Alexander Phillips (right) joined the Board and took over in 2007. The two Carol/es worked together to host the Iowa Country School Conference in Ames in 2008.



During Carol Alexander Phillips’ tenure, attendance increased at summer weekend programs. Carol coordinated the purchase of individual slates for each desk, started hosting regular schoolyard game days and amassed a large collection of reference materials to be sure that Hoggatt programs were accurate to the 1860s time period. She worked tirelessly to increase awareness of Hoggatt School, visiting many of the elementary classrooms in her 1860’s costume and encouraging teachers to schedule field trips.

A big challenge came in 2013 when the school district moved the schoolhouse to facilitate construction of the new Meeker Elementary School. Carol and Board member Sharon Wirth met many times with contractors to facilitate this move. Regular programming resumed in 2016 and Carol stepped down at the end of that year.

Carole and Carol truly set a new, high standard! Their award video is on YouTube.



Annual Awards Presented

An annual feature of our Benefit event is presenting the **Farwell T. Brown** and **History Maker Awards**. The **Farwell T. Brown Award** for exceptional service was presented to Hoggatt School curators, **Carole Jensen** and **Carol Alexander Phillips**.

Hoggatt School’s restoration was completed in 1981 and in the next two decades, it was visited by school groups and hosted occasional events but there were no regular open hours... until Carole Jensen came on board. Carole joined the Board of Directors in 1998 and immediately set to work.

She formed a Hoggatt School Committee, recruited volunteer docents and established regular summer weekend hours starting in 1999. In 2003, she coordinated the installation of brown “historic site” signs on Grand Avenue and 20th Street, directing visitors to Hoggatt. In 2004, she supervised long-

Museum News – Annual Benefit Report & Awards

The **Ames History Maker Award** was presented to Jerry, Chris, Paul and Matt Nelson of the 112-year old **Nelson Electric Company**. The Award honors an individual, organization or family that has had an impact on the history of our community.

Nearly as long as there has been electricity in Ames there has been the Nelson Electric Company. Municipal power in Ames goes back to 1896 when the citizens (including women) voted to approve funding for electric lights in downtown.

In 1903, 20-year-old Charles Benjamin ‘Ben’ Nelson, made his way to Ames from the Champaign, IL area. He met John Haverly, an electric light plant worker. John not only introduced Ben to the world of electricity but also to his sister Aggie whom Ben married in 1906. Neither knew that this was the beginning of a four-generation company in Ames.

As homes started to electrify, private contractors were approved to do the work. In 1908, Nelson Electric was founded on the south side of the 300 block of Main Street. Ben traveled up and down Main Street moving his equipment in a cart. Business picked up and they occupied a few different Main Street locations before settling into 320 Main Street.

The business was a family affair. Even nieces were employed to demonstrate how to operate the new electric toasters in the store windows. Eventually Ben’s son, Chuck, entered the business. When the depression hit, there were days when the cash register never opened. To keep the business going they shut down the Main Street shop and moved into the 3-car garage behind their house at 816 Clark Avenue.



As they entered the 1950s housing boom, business picked up, new trucks were purchased and offices expanded into another 3-car garage to the east.

The 1960s marked the passing of Ben while welcoming the 3rd generation into the business - Chuck’s sons,

Jerry and Paul. They moved to a location at 116 Clark and displayed their new “Sparky” logo. The Clark Avenue office served until 1995 when the business moved to its current 12,000 sq. ft. office on South Bell Avenue. Now a fourth generation entered the business, Jerry’s sons, Chris and Matt.

For over 100 years Nelson Electric has served the Ames community. A branch in Waterloo was added in 2009 and one in Carroll in 2011. Whether it’s wiring homes, wiring up speakers at the Collegian Theater, teaching WWII Navy trainees at Iowa State to wire ships and portable airport landing strips, setting up the power for the annual Jaycees 4th of July Carnival or even electrical work for the movie *Twister* - Nelson Electric has stepped up to the challenge.



Top row: Zoom interviewer, Sharon Wirth and Matt Nelson
Bottom: Jerry Nelson, Chris Nelson.

Nelson Electric is likely the longest continuously owned and operated family business in Ames. Their award video, with Jerry telling wonderful stories, can also be found on YouTube. First search ‘Ames History Museum’ – then search Nelson Electric.

From Fair View to Parkview Published

Museum Lecture Series goers may remember Edie Hunter, who presented *From Fair View to Parkview: the Battle to Save the Morris Farm from Involuntary Annexation* in 2019.

She was excited to let us know that her research was published in the fall edition of the *Annals of Iowa*, Iowa’s premier journal of state history. We are pleased to have provided the first audience for Edie’s accomplished research!

We Want Ames 2020 Stories

Help us preserve current local history – especially the good and the bad in Ames during 2020. Consider donating materials from the events below. Contact the Museum at info@ameshistory.org to set an appointment to donate materials.

- **COVID-19** – The pandemic has changed so much about the way we live. The Museum would like to preserve materials documenting how COVID-19 is affecting Ames people. Have you been taking photos, writing letters (or emails) or keeping a diary of your life in these times?
- **Black Lives Matter** – this expansive movement advocating for all Black lives included protests held in Ames and around the world. Did you attend a protest? If so, we'd like to get pictures, signs and hear your stories.
- **Derecho** - August's derecho was a devastating storm that will not be soon forgotten. With hurricane-like winds, the entire city was affected. If you have pictures of the damage or stories of the storm and its aftermath, we'd like to have them.

Visit our website's COVID-19 tab to see 'Ames History at Home' information about these projects and to see ideas for how to document these events.

Hoggatt Video Programs

Over the summer, three Hoggatt School videos were produced for at-home viewing since the school was closed.

An 1860s Spelling Bee, What's in your Lunchbox? and *How to Make Butter at Home* are available on the Museum's YouTube page. An additional video is in the works, featuring a 360° virtual tour of the interior of the school house.

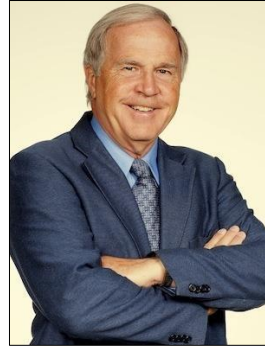


'Power & Pluck' Can Be Reserved

A traveling exhibit featuring stories of Story County women has toured five county towns and is in the Museum's windows through December. It can be viewed from the sidewalk any time of day. **Power & Pluck: Remarkable Women of Story County** ties into the 19th Amendment centennial. It is on four retractable banners - very easy to set up. Call 515-232-2148 to reserve for your locale.



Remembering Tom Morain



Tom Morain, with his University of Iowa PhD in American Studies, moved to Ames in 1973 to teach at Iowa State, where he shared an office with Dr. Dorothy Schwieder, the renowned "den mother" of Iowa history. Next, from 1981 to 1995, Tom was the research and interpretation director at

Living History Farms and helped the fledgling organization become what a Smithsonian executive once called "the best agricultural museum anywhere." For six years he led the State Historical Society of Iowa. In 2001, he returned to his undergraduate alma mater, Graceland University. It was said that, "Throughout his life, Tom was less determined to accomplish extraordinary things than to do ordinary things with extraordinary love - and ended up doing both." When our organization began its planning for a permanent museum, Tom - with his graciousness and good humor - met with us to share his experiences and expertise. He died on Oct. 10, 2020 at age 73.

Around the Museum

Few people have seen almost every page of every



Ames telephone book in our collection but Ron Skrdla has come close! Ron started volunteering with the museum in December of 2014 and over the last six years he has volunteered over 1,350 hours, digitizing over 150

telephone books and directories ranging from 1899 to present. They are now uploaded to the museum's resource page. Not only can people browse the books but they are also keyword-searchable. He has also scanned other books including the histories of Lake Comar and the town of Ontario. Ron has made it possible for people all over the world from California to Germany to use our resources. Bravo, Ron!

360° Around the Museum



When large images need to be spray-mounted, many hands are needed!

Museum staffers, Alex Fejfar (L) and Carly Hlubek (R) work together to attach a life-sized

enlargement of Billy Sunday to a piece of backing. Billy – now part of a display – can be seen through the Museum's front windows promoting the 360° interactive virtual rendition of 2018's exhibit, *Hometown Teams: How Sports Shaped Ames*.

Play with it at ameshistory.org/content/exhibits.

Hlubek To Leave Museum

Our skilled Collections Manager, Cedar Rapids native, Carly Hlubek, will be leaving the organization at the end of November to join her fiancé in his new job. Carly started at the museum in the fall of 2016 as an Iowa State work-study student. Although her primary role was janitorial, her strong interest in museum work quickly prompted staff to train her on processing artifacts. When the previous Collections Manager left in November 2017, it made perfect sense to move Carly into the Collections Manager role, officially starting in February 2018.



She graduated with her bachelor's in history from Iowa State in May 2018. Over her two and a half years as Collections Manager, Carly completed a large HRDP grant project to catalog 2,000 objects, reorganized artifact storage areas, made collections more accessible by creating a searchable online database and developed a collections internship program.

Carly's energy, knowledge of museum standards and interest in Ames history has greatly benefited the Museum. She will be very much missed but we wish her the best in her next adventure.

From the President: "Know, Build..."

By Sharon Wirth, AHM Board president

The Ames History Museum supports inclusion and diversity and seeks to align with racial justice and equity to evolve for the better. Now is the time to begin this work! **What can AHM do to help bring about the change that is needed?** Other than stories of a few individuals, little has been done to tell the stories and contributions of people of color in Ames. The Museum is prepared to do more in-depth research, more exhibits and more participation in community events focusing on people of color.

Under the title "Know History, Build a Better Future," AHM seeks to further community conversation by exploring ideas for projects and exhibits that elevate awareness of people of color in Ames history. This may include using the west windows for displays and exhibits, possible field trips, discussion groups and lectures. AHM also envisions a yet-to-be-developed section of the website with detailed information on people of color, their Ames connections and their many contributions to our community and the world.

AHM is pursuing the placement of a banner on the north side of the building (below) that would feature



information about selected individuals of color. We are currently working with ISU graphic design students and their advisor, Alex Braidwood and expect a design yet this semester. Individuals on the banner will be George Washington Carver, Archie and Nancy Martin, Jack Trice, J. Herman Banning, Nellie and John Shipp, Willa J. Ewing and Walter Madison.

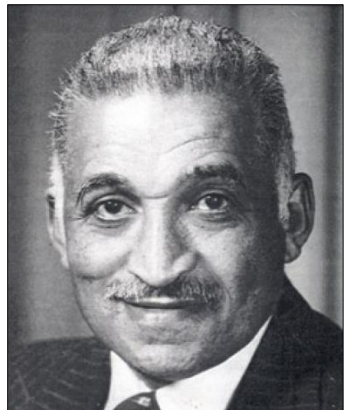
Expect to hear more about this project in the upcoming months. Funds were solicited for this project with the "Fund the Need" part of our annual benefit and additional funds would be most welcome.

To inquire about or comment on the banner project, contact the Museum at info@ameshistory.org. To donate, go to our website, ameshistory.org.

Samuel Proctor Massie Jr.

By Cary Bradburn, N. Little Rock History Commission

Samuel Proctor Massie Jr. overcame racial barriers to become one of America's greatest chemists in research



and teaching. As a PhD candidate at Iowa State College during World War II, he worked on the Manhattan Project with Henry Gilman developing uranium isotopes for military use. In 1966, the U.S. Naval Academy appointed him as its first Black faculty member. Massie's research over

fifty years led to the development of drugs to treat mental illness, malaria, meningitis, gonorrhea, herpes and cancer. *Chemical and Engineering News* in 1998 named him one of the top 75 chemists of all time, along with Marie Curie, Linus Pauling, George Washington Carver and DNA pioneers James Watson and Francis Crick.

Samuel Massie was born on July 3, 1919, to school teachers Samuel Proctor and Earlee Jacko Massie of North Little Rock, AK. He quickly advanced to high school and graduated second in his class by age thirteen. Early on, he wanted to be a chemist to find a cure for his father's asthma.

He worked a year at Horton's Grocery Store near his home and saved enough to pay tuition of \$15 per semester at Dunbar Junior College. A year later, in 1934, the U. of Arkansas in Fayetteville turned down his application for admission because he was Black.

He enrolled at Arkansas AM&N (now, U. of Arkansas, Pine Bluff) and in 1937 earned a bachelor's degree (summa cum laude) in chemistry with a minor in mathematics. With the aid of a federal National Youth Administration scholarship, he finished a master's degree in chemistry in 1940 at Fisk University in Nashville, TN. He taught a year at Arkansas AM&N before gaining admission to a doctoral program in chemistry at Iowa State College.

Racial discrimination did not disappear in Iowa. The closest housing available for African Americans was with the Martin family, three miles from campus, requiring him to hitchhike to classes. He noted that he

was assigned to a separate lab space "next to the rats in the basement" until he proved himself.

He almost did not get to complete his doctoral program. Massie returned to Arkansas in 1943 to attend his father's funeral and to renew his draft deferment. According to his autobiography, a member of the draft board in Pine Bluff decided that he had too much education for a Black man and would be drafted. Massie quickly contacted Dr. Gilman, who assigned him to his research team working on uranium. In 1946, Massie received his PhD in organic chemistry at Iowa State and took a teaching position at Fisk, having published seven research papers with Gilman in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.

In 1947, Massie married Fisk graduate, Gloria Bell Thompkins, who became a psychology professor. The couple had three sons. Massie taught at Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma from 1947 to 1953 and again at Fisk from 1953 to 1960. In 1954, he published "The Chemistry of Phenothiazine," an article in *Chemical Review* that led to a breakthrough by French chemists in development of the anti-psychotic drug Thorazine. Work followed at the National Science Foundation and Howard University in Washington D.C. in the early 1960s. The Manufacturing Chemists Association recognized Massie in 1961 as one of the six best chemistry teachers in America.

He served as president of North Carolina College in Durham from 1962-66. In 1966 President Lyndon B. Johnson tapped him for a chemistry professorship at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD where he was the first Black faculty member, serving until 1993. In 1970, University of Arkansas awarded Massie an honorary Doctor of Laws degree, the same place whose segregation policies had prevented his admission years before.

During his tenure at the Naval Academy, he served on the equal employment opportunity committee and helped establish a Black studies program. In 1994, the U.S. Department of Energy created the Dr. Samuel P. Massie Chair of Excellence, a \$14.7 million grant to nine historically Black colleges and one for Hispanic students to further environmental research. Dr. Massie worked to encourage African American and other minority students to pursue science careers.

He died at age 85 in Laurel, Maryland, April 10, 2005.

(Article used with permission.)

Two 1918 Pandemic Stories



Forrest



George



Ella

The Clark Family in 1918

In 1918, the influenza outbreak made its way to Ames. The Myron and Ada Clark family was one of the hardest hit. In early October their oldest son, George, 31, of Massachusetts got influenza followed by pneumonia and died, leaving behind his wife and two children. George was said to be, "... one of the most brilliant young men who ever went out from Ames." In late November, influenza struck the family home at 1205 Clark Avenue. Myron and Ada and four of their children became ill, including Ella, 20, Forrest, 17, Alice, 13 and Helen, 11. Helen died on November 22, as did Forrest, a junior at Ames High, two days later. The day Forrest died Ella and Alice were taken to Mary Greeley Hospital. Funerals for Forrest and Helen were on December 3. At that time Mrs. Clark's condition was good, Ella was to be brought home from the hospital and Alice was able to sit up. It was reported that about 90 people with connections to the Ames community died during the 1918 influenza epidemic.

Persevere Through the Highs and Lows

By Suyin Haynes, excerpted from Time magazine & Yahoo News

In the U.S. in 1918, women were campaigning hard for the right to vote. In October that year, at an annual women's rights convention in Illinois, several new rules were laid down for members. Attendance was limited to 100 people, the general public was barred from participating and chairs at the meeting were set four feet apart. This meeting took place against the backdrop of the deadly so-called "Spanish flu" pandemic. That meeting could almost have been a scene from 2020. The women taking part were members of the Illinois Equal



Suffrage convention and were eager to follow public health guidelines and continue the campaign for the American woman's right to vote.

August 2020 marked the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment. As celebration plans across the country, in Iowa and Ames have been upended by COVID-19, historians are looking back on suffragist determination in the face of a similarly challenging moment. "The suffragists have shown us how to persevere through the highs and the lows," says Anna Laymon, Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission. "It's easy to find inspiration in their stories and their work. There's a refrain: 'If the suffragists can do what they did, we can get through this.'"

At Year's End, Appealing To You

During the pandemic, AHM has adapted. Using all of our outreach resources, the Museum's staff and volunteers have engaged with more than **109,600** people since the COVID-19 closure in March.

But we have challenges. Several upstairs tenants have moved out. Some of that space is now used by our volunteers, but loss of rental income totals \$24,300. There has also been a decrease in membership renewals and program income. What the future holds for previously-steady streams of funding is uncertain.

We ask for your ongoing support! Specific projects planned for 2021 include:

- Contemporary collecting dealing with events of 2020 (see page 4).
- An initiative to tell the stories of the historically marginalized (see page 5).
- Increasing accessible content online: artifacts, archival collections finding aids and searchable resources such as yearbooks and phone books.

You have or will soon receive our year-end letter. We know we have asked a lot this year, but we are so grateful for your support and hope you will consider making a donation to ensure the future of the museum.



Ames History Museum
PO Box 821
Ames, Iowa 50010

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit #122
Ames, Iowa 50010

Return Service Requested

See the
MUSEUM SHOP
online at
ameshistory.org/visit:
(>what to expect >services)
then call or email to order!
Curbside pick-up
available.



Ames History Museum Board:

President: Sharon Wirth
Secretary: Lynette Spicer
Don Beitz, Bob Bourne, Wayne Clinton, Dan Franklin, Becky Jordan, Mary Logsdon, Ryan Riley, Jack Winkler. Monthly Board meetings are the 2nd Thursday at 6:45 pm. Members Welcome!

Vice-President: Peter Hallock

Treasurer: Ken Cameron

Museum Staff:
Collections Mgr: Carly Hlubek
Emeritus Staff: Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell

Executive Director: Casie Vance

Research & Exhibits Mgr: Alex Fejfar

The Ames History Museum is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

Museum: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010
Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010
E-mail: info@ameshistory.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ameshistory
Search 'Ames History Museum' on **Instagram** and **YouTube**

Hours: Fri. 10 am – 4 pm

Phone: 515-232-2148

Website: www.AmesHistory.org

The **newsletter** is published four times a year for Museum members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School at 18th and Burnett, Ames, IA. Closed for the season.

We want Your Derecho Stories! (see page 4)



Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Museum, so we can continue to be a valued community resource. Now – pay online on our website!

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Introductory - 1st year | \$15 | Partner | \$250 |
| Basic | \$30 | Benefactor | \$500 |
| Friend | \$50 | Patron | \$1,000 |
| Sustaining | \$100 | | |

Name _____

Address _____

Ames History Museum, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010